

Message Text

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53

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAM-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00 EB-07 COME-00 /077 W

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R 071115Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY DOHA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0648

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMZMBASSY ZEHRAN 0177

C O N F I D E N T I A L DOHA 0809

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, QA, IZ

SUBJ: AMIR OF QATAR TO VISIT IRAQ

REF: DOHA 0771 (NOTAL)

1. GOVT OF QATAR OFFICIALLY ANNOUNCED ON EVENING OF JULY 6 THAT THE AMIR, SHAYKH KHALIFA BIN HAMAD AL THANI, WOULD BEGIN THREE DAY VISIT TO IRAQ ON JULY 9 AT INVITATION OF PRESIDENT AL-BAKR. VISIT FOLLOWS BY ONE WEEK THAT OF GOQ FONMIN SHAYKH SUHAYM BIN HAMAD AL THANI.

2. DURING JULY 7 CONVERSATION, AMBASSADOR ASKED FONMIN SHAYKH SUHAYM ABOUT HIS VISIT TO BAGHDAD AND AMIR'S FORTHCOMING TRIP, NOTING DRAMATIC TURNAROUND IN QATARI-IRAQI RELATIONS THAT HAD OCCURED IN RECENT WEEKS.

3. SUHAYM RESPONDED THAT PURPOSE OF HIS VISIT HAD BEEN TO LAY
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ON THAT OF AMIR. HE ACKNOWLEDGED COMPLETE CHANGE OF ATMOSPHERE IN FORMERLY FROZEN QATARI-IRAQI RELATIONS, AND HE ATTRIBUTED

THIS TO NEW LOOK IN IRAQI POLICY TOWARD GULF. HE SPECIFIED THAT IMPROVED QATARI-IRAQI RELATIONS ONLY POSSIBLE BECAUSE IRAQIS HAD MENDED FENCES WITH SAUDIS (AT THIS POINT HE NOTED IRAQI-SAUDI BORDER AGREEMENT) AND BECAUSE THERE IS GENERAL UNDERSTANDING THAT IRAQIS WILL DESIST FROM INTERFERING IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF OTHER GULF STATES. OTHER IMPORTANT FACTORS, ACCORDING SUHAYM, WERE IRAN-IRAQ AGREEMENT AND IRAQI PARTICIPATION IN PROPOSED COOPERATIVE VENTURES AMONG GULF STATES IN SHIPPING AND CARGO AIRLINE.

4. COMMENT: IT IS NOTABLE THAT AMIR HAS CHOSEN IRAQ FOR HIS FIRST FORAY INTO INTER-GULF CONSULTATIONS PARADE. ASIDE FROM SAUDI ARABIA, IRAQ WILL BE FIRST GULF STATE TO WHICH AMIR HAS PAID OFFICIAL VISIT SINCE HIS ACCESSION TO POWER IN 1972. VISIT INDICATES THAT QATARIS HAVE FINALLY DECIDED TO GET INTO THE SWIM OF RECENT TOING AND FROING AMONG GULF LEADERS, AND IS ALSO ANOTHER SCORE FOR IRAQ'S NEW DIPLOMACY IN REGION. PAGANELLI

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